

From: (b)(6)
To: EastWaterWayComments <EastWaterWayComments@epa.gov>
Date: 8/10/2023 12:59:09 PM
Subject: East Waterway Proposed Plan

Greetings Laura and Ravi,

I am writing to **support the cleanup goals** proposed for the East Waterway Superfund Site and to request that EPA **expand its cleanup plan** to include active removal of contaminated sediments under and around the Spokane Street fishing pier. As you are aware, this fishing pier is where the majority of Duwamish River fishing families harvest both salmon and resident seafood from the Duwamish River. Some species of resident seafood have very limited ranges, so their body burden of toxic chemicals do not reflect an East Waterway "average" – rather, they will concentrate high levels of chemicals that are permitted to remain in the area where they are harvested. This is an environmental injustice that will most severely impact the river's low-income fishers, many of whom are immigrants and people of color. Migration of toxic chemicals like PCBs from the East Waterway will also continue to impact the health of Puget Sound as a whole if these chemicals are not removed. In addition, please protect our investment in cleanup by preparing a comprehensive **source control plan** specific to the East Waterway that addresses all storm drains, CSOs, industrial discharges, port /shipping activities, upstream sources of pollution, and aerial deposition that may need to be controlled in order to effectively protect the environment and human health during and after the East Waterway cleanup.

Finally, the existing Institutional Control Plan for the Lower Duwamish River must be evaluated to determine if it is effectively protecting people harvesting resident seafood from the East Waterway. The IC Plan is due for an evaluation of its effectiveness for fishers on the LDW and cannot be assumed to be adequate for fishers on the East Waterway without a comprehensive evaluation of whether it is meeting its goals of reducing exposures for people who fish both areas of the river /estuary. Please articulate how EPA will ensure that ICs will prevent fishers on the East Waterway from ongoing exposure to harmful levels of toxic chemicals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the East Waterway Proposed Cleanup Plan and for your many years of work to protect the environment and communities of the Duwamish River.

Very best,

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'No man steps in the same river twice, for it is not the same river and he is not the same man.'
-Heraclitus